Report of the NACBS Webmaster
To the NACBS Council, October 13, 2004

Content: Most pages on the site were updated repeatedly over the past year, some of them repeatedly (especially awards, program, meetings, membership, and officers). Most updates follow requests or new material provided by the President, Secretary, or Local Arrangements. A "last updated on..." line has been inserted in the lower right of all new and newly updated pages. Those first created and posted or last updated in 2004 include (by date of last update for that page): January (4 pages), March (1), August (3), September (5), and October (3).

Specific notes:

Visitors Program button <http://www.nacbs.org/NACBS/vis.html> has not been updated in the past year and appears to be moribund. Do we want to delete this? Or would we want to replace it with a permanent elections button? U of Chicago posted a button for this year's election. But I don't maintain <http://www.nacbs.org/NACBS/elections-2004/candidates.html> and have asked U of Chicago to delete link and take down page now that election is over.

I recently completely updated membership page <http://www.nacbs.org/NACBS/mem.html> based on my own request to University of Chicago for rates, and my own and the President's sense of what membership benefits entail. (Perhaps officers might look over text to this and email me suggestions for changes; editors should contact me when subscription rates or details change.)

The regional conference websites are quite variable in timeliness, url (site), and even existence. According to the sites to which we currently link, the following applies as of 29 Sept. 2004:

–the Mid-Atlantic (MACBS), <http://www.smcm.edu/macbs/>, last updated some time in 2003? [no webmaster listed as officer]
–the Midwest (MWCBS), <http://www.eiu.edu/~localite/britain/mwcbs/>, last updated Sept. 2004 [Webmaster listed as officer]
–the Northeast (NECBS), <http://users.wpi.edu/~phansen/necbs.html>, last updated Sept. 2004 [no webmaster listed as officer; although the NACBS former webmaster runs it]
–the Southern (SCBS), <http://cie.colstate.edu/SCBS/SCBShome.htm>, last updated some time in 2004? [no webmaster listed as officer]
–the Western (WCBS), no website
–and the Pacific Coast (PCCBS). <http://www.sonoma.edu/history/pccbs/>, last updated Aug. 2004 [no webmaster listed as officer]

My recommendation is to urge regional conferences to elect/select/institute a webmaster as an officer, keep a site, and send me any changes (especially if the URL migrates when a new webmaster takes over). I try to list regional conferences and link them on the NACBS. But the regionals need to send the information to me (or at least post it on H-Albion, where I will see it). [A further request is that local arrangements actually list the NACBS webmaster and the webmaster's university on the programs, but as that appears self-serving, may I recommend we do this once I step down as webmaster?]

We established a relationship with *Twentieth-Century British History* and links to rates and article contests were placed on the NACBS site. Both the page for Funding and Research and the list of Conferences and Organizations of Related Interest has been updated and all links checked recently.

Usage: [**Waiting on University of Chicago Press to supply this past year's statistics, which was supposed to be ready on 4 Oct. Will distribute at meeting.]**

Approximately 34 people contacted the NACBS between January and October 2004 through the form supplied on our website <http://www.nacbs.org/NACBS/contactus.html>. Where I could not supply the answer ("how do I update my listing on the directory?"), I forwarded the query to the other officers. Given that we list officers and email addresses, those using the form are probably those least "connected" with the NACBS, and so this is a valuable gateway to our public/members and we should continue to try to answer queries promptly.

Acknowledgments: Thanks to the University of Chicago Journals Division, which hosts the site, and especially Wayne Tack who was my efficient and courteous "gateway" to posting materials on the site and general queries regarding the Chicago site overall. Thanks too to our previous webmaster Peter Hansen, whose overall look and structure of the site I have maintained.

Respectfully submitted,

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